

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4 - 21 are currently pending.

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2 and 4-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Moon et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,385,662 ("Moon"). Claims 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Oran et al., U. S. Patent No. 5,757,371 ("Oran").

Claims 1-2 and 4-14

Claims 1-2 and 4-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Moon. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Moon does not disclose each and every limitation recited in amended claims 1 and 8.

Moon discloses techniques for processing information and teaches a user interface display upon which a status bar is presented to the user. Following a particular instance of an event, a status message is displayed within the status bar. For example, Moon discloses displaying a message icon in response to the receipt of a particular email message. When a user chooses to ignore the message, it is removed from the status bar and is placed into a history file. Subsequently, a user must select to view this history file to ascertain details about the particular instance of the event. In fact, a message icon related to a particular instance of an event is never redisplayed within the status bar. To view the ignored messages, the user must reference the history file to observe an event log having relevant information regarding past events.

In contrast, amended claim 1 recites “upon meeting an unhide criteria, redisplaying the notification area icon in the notification area, wherein said redisplayed notification area icon represents said particular instance of the event or process.” Moon does not redisplay an icon representing a particular instance of the event or process. Once a message icon is hidden from view, it will not be redisplayed in the notification area unless a subsequent instance of the event or process is detected. As to an email example, the most recent Office Action points out on page 9, “[U]pon meeting an unhide criteria of receiving another incoming email, the message icon represent an incoming email event is redisplayed in the status bar notification area.” However, Moon does not teach redisplaying a message icon representing the original incoming email instance. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Amended claim 8 requires “upon meeting an unhide criteria, displaying and arranging each of the notification item icons in the notification area and removing the chevron icon when there are no more hidden items, wherein displaying and arranging each of the notification item icons includes displaying said inactive notification item icons in the notification area along with active notification item icons.” Moon does not teach redisplaying the inactive notification item icons along with active notification item icons in the notification area. Moon only teaches displaying a history file which includes details about inactive notifications. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2, and 4-7, which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 9-14, which depend from claim

8, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 8.

Claims 15-21

Claims 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Oran. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Oran does not disclose each and every limitation set forth in amended, independent claim 15.

Oran teaches a graphical user interface having a taskbar that includes various elements such as a start menu button, a clock, a taskbar notification area, and buttons associated with currently active tasks. The interface of Oran may provide a taskbar properties selection display from which a user can select various display options or taskbar properties. For example, one of the taskbar properties is "Auto hide." When enabled, this feature causes the taskbar to hide from the display when the mouse cursor is not hovering over the task bar area. The taskbar properties selection display does not present icons, descriptions of notifications, or characteristics of notification items. Furthermore, none of the user selectable display options allow hiding a notification item icon after a level of inactivity is met.

In contrast, amended claim 15 requires "providing a set of user selectable hiding behaviors to be associated with the notification item, wherein at least one of said user selectable hiding behaviors includes hiding the notification item icon when a preset threshold of inactivity is met;". Oran does not teach providing a set of user selectable hiding behaviors to be associated with an individual notification item. Further, while Oran may teach hiding the entire taskbar when the mouse cursor is not hovering over a particular area, Oran does not disclose a user selectable behavior that hides an individual notification item icon when a preset threshold of

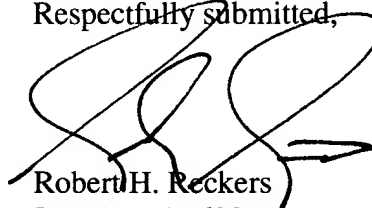
inactivity is met. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claim 15 is in condition for allowance

Furthermore, Applicants submit that dependent claims 16 - 21, which depend from claim 15, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 15.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, claims 1, 2, and 4 - 21 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 1, 2, and 4 - 21. If any issues remain which would prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned prior to issuing a subsequent action. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112.

Respectfully submitted,



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